

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
CITY OF SEATTLE,
Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:12-cv-01282-JLR

**AMICUS BRIEF OF AMERICAN
CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF
WASHINGTON**

I. IDENTITY AND INTEREST OF AMICUS

The identity and interest of Amicus are set forth in the Motion for Leave to File, submitted contemporaneously with this brief.

II. INTRODUCTION

In 2010, 35 community organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington (ACLU-WA), called on the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to utilize its enforcement authority to investigate egregious incidents of

1 excessive force by the Seattle Police Department (SPD, Department) against com-
2 munity members of color. Pattern-or-practice investigations and consent decrees are
3 important tools to address systemic failures within police departments resulting
4 from constitutional violations. Community groups in Seattle reached out to federal
5 authorities because SPD and City leaders were ineffective at changing the problem-
6 atic and dangerous culture, practices, policies, and outcomes of police interactions
7 with community members. *See Request to Investigate Letter* (Dec. 3, 2010),
8 [https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Har-](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Harrell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf)
9 [rell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Harrell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf).

13 For the last eleven years, under a Consent Decree, the City has been required
14 to ensure that “police services are delivered to... [its residents] ...in a manner that
15 fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States, effectively en-
16 sures public and officer safety, and promotes public confidence in the Seattle Police
17 Department...and its officers.” *See* Dkt. No. 3-1 at 5.

20 Now, the United States and the City of Seattle (collectively “the Parties”) are
21 asking this Court to terminate the Consent Decree, with the City declaring that SPD
22 is a “transformed organization.” *See* Dkt. No. 728 at 3. Doing so would end Court
23 oversight of discriminatory policing, model use-of-force policies, development and
24 implementation of a wide-ranging and sophisticated data-collection and officer
25
26

1 early warning system, strong community participation, and civilian oversight. In
2 lieu of the Consent Decree, the Parties are asking this court to adopt a Transition
3 Agreement (Agreement), a streamlined tool focused on a narrow set of outcomes,
4 concentrating on two broad, yet crucial, areas – the use of force within the context
5 of crowd control and officer accountability.
6

7
8 While the Consent Decree ushered in changes to SPD’s policies, data collec-
9 tion, and training, the Department, regrettably, is not a “transformed organization.”
10 The Consent Decree was never intended to be a permanent fixture. After a decade,
11 terminating it now should spark further action by the City to achieve greater gains
12 in reducing discriminatory policing, reducing excessive force, and increasing ac-
13 countability. If the Consent Decree is terminated, Amicus, an original requestor,
14 will not celebrate the news as a moment of “mission accomplished.”
15

16
17 Unfortunately, as described below, the presence of such a tool has not meant
18 that the significant problems which led to the present case have been resolved. While
19 there have been gains made in reducing the use of force and creating important
20 structures for accountability, data consistently illustrates that discriminatory polic-
21 ing continues as SPD officers are more likely to stop Black and Indigenous people
22 at alarming rates. *See Chong Yim v. City. Of Seattle*, 63 F.4th 783 (9th Cir. 2023).
23
24
25
26

1 United States Attorney’s Office, Western District of Washington, Dec. 16, 2011,
2 https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/16/spd_find-
3 [letter_12-16-11.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/16/spd_find-letter_12-16-11.pdf) at 3.
4

5 Those concerns included acknowledgement that “inappropriate pedestrian
6 encounters may disproportionately involve youth of color. Of the cases that we de-
7 termined to be unnecessary or excessive uses of force, over 50% involved minori-
8 ties. Analysis of limited data suggests that, in certain precincts, SPD officers may
9 stop a disproportionate number of people of color where no offense or other police
10 incident occurred.” *Id. at 6*. However, to the disappointment of community groups,
11 the Consent Decree had only minimal requirements relating to policy clarifications,
12 data review and analysis, and anti-bias training to address discriminatory policing.
13 *See Settlement Agreement and Stipulated [Proposed] Order of Resolution, Dkt. No.*
14 *3-1 at 41*, [https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/leg-](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2012/07/31/spd_consentdecree_7-27-12.pdf)
15 [acy/2012/07/31/spd_consentdecree_7-27-12.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2012/07/31/spd_consentdecree_7-27-12.pdf). While there was no explicit com-
16 mitment to actually reduce discriminatory policing, SPD cannot be considered a
17 “transformed organization” because of the continued culture and outcomes of dis-
18 criminatory policing which continue to erode trust in SPD and public safety.
19
20
21
22
23

24 In 2021, SPD posted a 54-page document to its website, compiled by the Cen-
25 ter for Policing Equity, showing that between 2015-2019, while the Consent Decree
26

1 was actively in place, Black people were seven times more likely to be subjected to
2 force by Seattle police than white people and five times more likely to be stopped
3 and questioned. Mike Carter, *Report: Seattle police stop Black people, Native Amer-*
4 *icans at far higher rate than white people*, The Seattle Times, [https://www.seat-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/report-black-people-and-native-americans-get-stopped-by-seattle-police-at-a-far-higher-rate-than-white-people/)
5 [tletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/report-black-people-and-native-americans-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/report-black-people-and-native-americans-get-stopped-by-seattle-police-at-a-far-higher-rate-than-white-people/)
6 [get-stopped-by-seattle-police-at-a-far-higher-rate-than-white-people/](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/report-black-people-and-native-americans-get-stopped-by-seattle-police-at-a-far-higher-rate-than-white-people/). Indigenous
7 people were nine times more likely to be stopped based on this data, which was
8 compiled, analyzed, and posted while SPD was under federal DOJ oversight. *Id.*
9 While Amicus recognizes that SPD was open and transparent about this data, if this
10 data is not used to fuel clear and systemic change within the Department, it has little
11 impact other than sowing greater distrust within the Seattle community.
12

13
14
15
16 SPD's own data in its use of force annual report for 2019 show that force was
17 used against non-white Seattle residents over 50% of the time. *See* Seattle Police
18 Department, *Use of Force Annual Report January 31, 2019*, Dkt. 524-1, at 9,
19 [https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Police/Publications/2019_An-](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Police/Publications/2019_Annual_UoF_Report.pdf)
20 [nual_UoF_Report.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Police/Publications/2019_Annual_UoF_Report.pdf). (uses of force against white people amount to 42.47% of to-
21 tal uses of force). The City is 65% white, demonstrating the stark disproportionality
22 of force borne by community members of color. *See Quick Facts, Seattle City,*
23
24
25
26

1 *Washington*, United States Census Bureau, [https://www.census.gov/quick-](https://www.census.gov/quick-facts/fact/table/seattlecitywashington/RHI125221#RHI125221)
2 facts/fact/table/seattlecitywashington/RHI125221#RHI125221. Current SPD data
3 shows that “Black persons are stopped at a rate that is 4.1 times that of non-Hispanic
4 white persons and Indigenous persons are stopped [at] a rate that is 5.8 times that of
5 non-Hispanic white persons.” *Yim*, 63 F.4th at 788. Furthermore, “[w]hile the over-
6 all population in King County, home to Seattle, is just 6.8% Black, the population
7 of the King County [J]ail is 36.6% Black...[a]nd while Native Americans are 1.1%
8 of the King County population, they number 2.4% of the County’s jail population.”
9
10
11
12 *Id.* The current data shows significant, ongoing racial disparities in policing that
13 mirror the issues from over ten years ago that led up to the original investigation
14 and lawsuit in the present matter.

15
16 Racial disparities not only plague SPD and how officers conduct stops, but
17 also impact officers within the Department, as Black officers are the target of ra-
18 cially motivated behavior by other officers. For example, Detective Cookie Bouldin,
19 who has served 43 years with SPD and is a Black, female officer, has operated
20 within a hostile work environment for those 43 years of service because of her gen-
21 der identity and race. *See Mike Carter, Pioneering detective filed claim against SPD,*
22 *alleges racial and gender discrimination*, The Seattle Times, <https://www.seat->
23
24
25
26

1 tletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/pioneering-detective-sues-spd-alleges-ra-
2 cial-and-gender-discrimination/. Detective Bouldin details how, for the entirety of
3 her service with SPD, she has constantly dodged racist remarks; had her loyalty to
4 the Department questioned because of her ties to Black community members; and
5 navigated assignments and treatment with racist overtones. *Id.* Adding to her mis-
6 treatment, while “[t]he Department regularly points to Detective Bouldin’s strong
7 relationship with the communities of color whenever there is controversy in relation
8 to a Seattle Police action...[b]ehind the scenes, other officers and supervisors have
9 belittled Detective Bouldin and challenged whether she is with the Department or
10 with the community.” *Id.* This culture of policing that pits officers against the very
11 community members they are sworn to serve is a fundamental crisis at SPD.

12 While the Consent Decree and the Monitor’s suggestions regarding racial dis-
13 parity issues attempt to paint a narrative of steady progress, current SPD data tells a
14 starkly different story, one that mirrors the original issues that led to the 2011 DOJ
15 investigation. If the Consent Decree is terminated, the City and Department must
16 take concrete action to directly address the obvious racial disparities that continue
17 to plague SPD, specifically, and the culture of policing in Seattle, generally, which
18 only reinforces the historic and ongoing harms inflicted on communities of color.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

1 **B. Tear Gas Should Be Banned and Less Lethal Weapons**
2 **Significantly Restricted as Crowd Control Measures in Light**
3 **of Rampant Abuse and Misuse by SPD and the City’s Or-**
4 **dinance.**

5 While the Parties’ proposed Agreement directs SPD to revise its crowd man-
6 agement policy in a general sense, it fails to explicitly address the use of less lethal
7 weapons, in particular, tear gas, as a crowd control measure. Due to the historic
8 abuse of tear gas by SPD, banning the use of tear gas for protected First Amendment
9 activity and restricting less lethal alternatives in compliance with the City Council
10 ordinance passed in 2021 are critical to ensuring that SPD is a transformed organi-
11 zation.
12

13 The use of tear gas by law enforcement against American citizens immedi-
14 ately evokes memories of some of the worst moments in our nation’s history. State
15 and local police officers released tear gas, and worse, on peaceful voting rights pro-
16 testers, many of whom were college-age young adults, as they walked across the
17 Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. *Alabama: The Ed-*
18 *mund Pettus Bridge*, National Park Service, [https://www.nps.gov/places/alabama-](https://www.nps.gov/places/alabama-the-edmund-pettus-bridge.htm)
19 the-edmund-pettus-bridge.htm
20
21

22 In 1999, during the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, SPD used
23 it on protestors. In retrospect, then police chief Norm Stamper regrets the decision:
24 “
25 “The bottom line, I do believe, was my failure to veto a decision to use chemical
26

1 agents. These are fellow Americans who had exercised their First Amendment
 2 rights.” Jim Brunner, *50,000 protesters, tear gas — and Madeleine Albright trapped*
 3 *in her hotel: How the 1999 WTO protests changed Seattle*, Seattle Times,
 4 [https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/wto-seattle-protests-20-years-later-do-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/wto-seattle-protests-20-years-later-do-they-matter/)
 5 [they-matter/](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/wto-seattle-protests-20-years-later-do-they-matter/).
 6

7
 8 In 2020, history repeated itself when police officers in various cities nation-
 9 wide released tear gas on protesters after George Floyd was killed while in the cus-
 10 tody of police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tens of thousands of people
 11 across Washington – from Spokane¹ to Forks², and Walla Walla³ to Omak⁴ and many
 12 places in between⁵ – gathered to protest police violence in the wake of George
 13 Floyd’s horrific and unnecessary murder.
 14
 15

16
 17 ¹ *See Thousands March in Spokane*, The Spokesman-Review, [https://www.spokes-](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/may/31/protesters-gather-in-downtown-spokane-to-demonstra/)
 18 [man.com/stories/2020/may/31/protesters-gather-in-downtown-spokane-to-demon-](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/may/31/protesters-gather-in-downtown-spokane-to-demonstra/)
 19 [stra/](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/may/31/protesters-gather-in-downtown-spokane-to-demonstra/).

20 ² Jesse Major, *Widespread protests continue*, Peninsula Daily News,
 21 <https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/widespread-protests-continue/>.

22 ³ Dian Ver Valen, *Peaceful downtown rally Sunday*, Union-Bulletin,
 23 https://www.union-bulletin.com/news/peaceful-downtown-rally-sunday/collection_04c6cc1f-5e7c-5037-a0ed-c09ddb8535f2.html.

24 ⁴ *Community pulls together for Floyd March*, The Omak Chronicle,
 25 [https://www.omakchronicle.com/free/community-pulls-together-for-floyd-](https://www.omakchronicle.com/free/community-pulls-together-for-floyd-march/article_289ba0ae-a77c-11ea-a35d-eb152d431011.html)
 26 [march/article_289ba0ae-a77c-11ea-a35d-eb152d431011.html](https://www.omakchronicle.com/free/community-pulls-together-for-floyd-march/article_289ba0ae-a77c-11ea-a35d-eb152d431011.html).

⁵ *See, e.g., George Floyd Protests in Washington (state)*, Wikipedia: The Free Dictionary, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd_protests_in_Washington_\(state\)#cite_note-26](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd_protests_in_Washington_(state)#cite_note-26).

1 Officers in Seattle responded in some instances with such significant amounts
2 of tear gas that residents in the Capitol Hill neighborhood uninvolved in the protests
3 were tear gassed in their homes. *Seattle Residents Got Tear Gassed in Their Own*
4 *Apartments*, The Stranger,
5 [https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/04/43840246/seattle-residents-got-tear-](https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/04/43840246/seattle-residents-got-tear-gassed-in-their-own-apartments)
6 [gassed-in-their-own-apartments.](https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/04/43840246/seattle-residents-got-tear-gassed-in-their-own-apartments) The tear gas released at protesters was not able to
7
8 single out individuals causing harm—small pets, infants asleep in their Capitol Hill
9 homes, and immuno-compromised 70-year-olds not participating in the protests
10 were also impacted. *Id.*

13 As a result of tear gas being used during the George Floyd protests, a group
14 of Seattle protesters brought First Amendment and Fourth Amendment claims
15 against the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department, arguing that their use
16 of tear gas and other “less-lethal” weapons including, but not limited to, weapons
17 designed to stun people with light and sound, chilled their constitutional right to
18 assemble and protest peacefully. *Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County v. Cty. Of*
19 *Seattle, Seattle Police Dep’t*, 466 F. Supp. 3d 1206 (W.D. Wash. 2020). The West-
20 ern District of Washington held that the Seattle Police Department had “used less-
21 lethal weapons disproportionately and without provocation,” supporting the plain-
22 tiffs’ motion for a temporary restraining order. *Id.* at 1211.

1 The 2021 Washington State Legislature responded by passing RCW
2 10.116.030, which severely restricts the use of tear gas by law enforcement for
3 crowd control, requiring that the highest elected official in the municipality—not
4 the chief of police—decide when tear gas can be deployed against a crowd. This
5 provision was created in large part due to SPD’s abuse of tear gas during the 2020
6 protests. Capitol Hill lawmaker Senator Jamie Pedersen advocated for the extended
7 chain of command, stating:
8
9

10 This summer, my neighborhood, not just my district, my neighbor-
11 hood, was filled with tear gas, indiscriminately used by police who had
12 too easy a chain of command to decide that... a chemical weapon that
13 we have agreed by treaty not to use against hostile combatants, is going
14 to be used on our own citizens, peaceful protestors. It needs to stop.

15 *See Senate Law and Justice Committee – Senator Jamie Pedersen’s Statement,*
16 March 18, 2021, [https://tvw.org/video/senate-law-justice-committee-](https://tvw.org/video/senate-law-justice-committee-2021031276/?eventID=2021031276)
17 [2021031276/?eventID=2021031276](https://tvw.org/video/senate-law-justice-committee-2021031276/?eventID=2021031276) (beginning at 48:33).
18

19 Moreover, in August 2021, the Seattle City Council, based on consensus rec-
20 ommendations from the Community Police Commission, the Office of Public Ac-
21 countability, and the Office of the Inspector General – the three accountability bod-
22 ies created by the Consent Decree – passed an ordinance limiting the use of tear gas
23 and other less lethal weapons such as blast balls, chemical irritants, etc. even further.
24
25
26

1 See Ordinance 126422, August 27, 2021, [https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9811339&GUID=DA9D3B9C-8D4E-4778-](https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9811339&GUID=DA9D3B9C-8D4E-4778-A094-0D69CB650242)
2
3
4 A094-0D69CB650242.

5 Time and time again, this community has witnessed SPD utterly disregarding
6 their crowd control weapons policies⁶, even while under the scrutiny of a Consent
7 Decree, resulting in widespread devastation, physical, mental, and emotional inju-
8 ries to individuals⁷, the infringement of people's constitutional rights to free speech
9 and free assembly, and pending litigation alleging civil rights violations. The com-
10 munity can no longer rely on SPD to utilize discretion in deciding when and on
11 whom this form of chemical warfare is deployed.
12
13

14 Amicus urges the City to bar the use of tear gas as a crowd control measure
15 for constitutionally protected activity, and restrict the use of other less lethal weap-
16 ons, according to the democratically and collaboratively passed City Ordinance.
17
18
19
20
21

22 _____
23 ⁶ Jemima McEvoy, *Seattle Police Use Tear Gas Against Protestors Despite City*
24 *Ban*, Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jemimamcevoy/2020/06/08/seattle-police-use-tear-gas-against-protestors-despite-city-ban/#cf4dc5d5b4bc>.

25 ⁷ Liz Jones, Isolde Raftery, *This woman 'died three times' after Seattle Police hit*
26 *her with a blast ball*, KUOW, KUOW - This woman 'died three times' after Seattle
Police hit her with a blast ball.

1 **C. The City Must Fully Implement the 2017 Accountability**
2 **Ordinance.**

3 Amicus shares the Court’s concern over accountability. Dkt. No. 727-1 at 7.
4
5 To address the Court’s concerns, the Parties propose that the Monitor will, essen-
6 tially, study and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the City’s accountability
7 system. Dkt. No. 728 at 23. This is insufficient to address critical concerns with
8 SPD’s internal accountability systems. Amicus urges the City to fully implement
9 the Accountability law and fund accountability, particularly since SPD has fallen
10 out of compliance in the past, with dire outcomes.
11

12 In 2017, after many months of unsuccessful efforts by the CPC to secure im-
13 plementation of reforms through internal SPD policy changes, and additional
14 months of consultation with Seattle’s police and community leaders and locally and
15 nationally recognized accountability experts to draft legislation, the Seattle City
16 Council unanimously passed an Accountability law creating an integrated structure
17 of community input and civilian oversight through a new OIG, a strengthened OPA,
18 and a permanent CPC. Steve Miletich, *Seattle City Council passes historic police-*
19 *accountability legislation*, The Seattle Times, [https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-city-council-passes-historic-police-accountability-legislation/)
20 *news/law-justice/seattle-city-council-passes-historic-police-accountability-leg-*
21 *islation/*. The Ordinance commits the City to, among other things, “take whatever
22
23
24
25
26

1 steps are necessary... including negotiating with its police unions to update all af-
2 fected collective bargaining agreements so that the agreements each conform to and
3 are fully consistent with the provisions and obligations of this Ordinance, in a man-
4 ner that allows for the earliest possible implementation to fulfill the purposes of this
5 Chapter...” See SEATTLE, WA., ORDINANCE 125315 3.29.510:Implementation
6 (2017) at 85-86. See also Ordinance 125315, Seattle City Council, 85-86,
7 <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/CommunityPoliceCommis->
8 [sion/Ordinance_APPRVED_052217_ALL_STRIKEOUTS_REMOVED.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/CommunityPoliceCommission/Ordinance_APPRVED_052217_ALL_STRIKEOUTS_REMOVED.pdf).

9
10
11
12 However, as the Court recognized in November of 2017, the City approved a
13 collective bargaining contract with the Seattle Police Management Association
14 (SPMA), which contradicted provisions of the accountability law that aligned with
15 the Consent Decree, particularly around arbitration procedures. See Steve Miletich,
16 *Federal judge asks for more information on clearing of Seattle police in Charleena*
17 *Lyles shooting*, The Seattle Times, [https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/federal-judge-asks-for-more-information-on-clearing-of-seattle-police-in-charleena-lyles-shooting/)
18 [justice/federal-judge-asks-for-more-information-on-clearing-of-seattle-police-in-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/federal-judge-asks-for-more-information-on-clearing-of-seattle-police-in-charleena-lyles-shooting/)
19 [charleena-lyles-shooting/](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/federal-judge-asks-for-more-information-on-clearing-of-seattle-police-in-charleena-lyles-shooting/). The following year, the Court recognized inconsistencies
20 between the Accountability law, the Consent Decree and the City’s contract with
21 the Seattle Police Officer’s Guild (SPOG), which the CPC urged City Council to
22 reject because of how it undermined the Accountability law. Lester Black, *CPC*:
23
24
25
26

1 *Throw Out This Terrible Police Union Contract*, The Stranger, <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/CommunityPoliceCommission/CPC%20Press%20Release%2010-17.pdf>. Because “the contract water[ed] down hard-fought-for improvements in the system for disciplining officers for dishonesty... [and] weaken[ed] improvements regarding the 180-day time limit on misconduct investigations, both of [which]... were acknowledged and addressed by the City Council when it passed the 2017 Ordinance,” 24 community groups, including the ACLU-WA and many of the original requestors, also urged rejection of the SPOG contract, to no avail. *Community groups urge Seattle City Council to reject police contract as step backwards for community trust in the police department*, The ACLU, <https://www.aclu-wa.org/news/community-groups-urge-seattle-city-council-reject-police-contract-step-backwards-community>. The damaging impacts of undermining the Accountability law were quickly realized, when the Disciplinary Review Board, allowed under the SPOG contract, reversed the firing of Officer Adley Shepherd, who punched a handcuffed woman seated in the back of his patrol car hard enough to fracture the orbital rim of her right eye.

22
23
24
25
26
These failures on the part of the City to implement, defend, and demand compliance with the Accountability law resulted in the Court finding that the City had

1 fallen out of compliance in 2019. Dkt. No. 562. The City must act to not repeat its
2 actions in this year's contract negotiations.
3

4 Additionally, Seattle's 2020 budget demonstrated the City's lack of prioritiz-
5 ing the accountability bodies, OPA, CPC, and OIG, created by the Accountability
6 law and under the Consent Decree. The approved budget for policing and account-
7 ability, excluding significant policing overtime costs, resulted in "a meager 1% ...
8 dedicated to the three police accountability entities. The remaining 99% is for the
9 police." Mina Barahimi Martin, www.aclu-wa.org/story/follow-money-2022. It is
10 critical that the City invest in accountability in order to ensure those agencies can
11 engage in robust oversight.
12
13

14 The recently approved contract between the City and Seattle Police Manage-
15 ment Association creates a new discipline review system "that marks a sea change
16 in how discipline appeals operate." See Erica C. Barnett, *Police Management Con-*
17 *tract, Which Includes Concessions, Could Serve as Template for SPOG Negotia-*
18 *tions*, Publicola, <https://publicola.com/2022/06/13/se/>.
19
20

21 While this is a positive development, given the history of the City's actions
22 in light of the Accountability law, more is needed than a proposed study to ensure
23 that the City finally implements the Accountability Ordinance. Critical unmet pro-
24 visions remain, including, but not limited to, a 180-day timeline for disciplinary
25
26

1 investigations; subpoena authority for OPA and OIG; the standard of review and
2 quantum of proof in disciplinary appeals, and features of grievance arbitration that
3 affect public confidence, such as degree of transparency. *See Accountability Ordinance Tracker*,
4 City of Seattle Community Police Commission, <https://www.seattle.gov/community-police-commission/our-work/accountability-ordinance-tracker>.
5
6
7

8 III. CONCLUSION

9 Since 2011, Amicus has been concerned that continued discriminatory polic-
10 ing, abuse of force tactics, and lack of accountability harm public safety. As we said
11 in our initial request to DOJ, “[d]istrust of the police by communities of color grows
12 as a result, and it becomes harder for the Seattle Police Department to do its job of
13 keeping all Seattle residents safe.” *See Request to Investigate Letter* (DEC. 3, 2010),
14 [https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Har-](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Harrell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf)
15 [rell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Harrell/DOJ/2012-01aclu_ltr120310.pdf), at 3.
16
17
18

19 While consent decrees are not meant to last forever, we do believe the Parties
20 and the Court continue to have a role in creating a Transition Agreement that would
21 leave a legacy of profound change, with concrete policy changes in crowd control,
22 adequate funding, and full implementation of the Accountability law. If the Consent
23 Decree ends, it does not herald victory over discriminatory policing in Seattle, but
24
25
26

1 it can and should be a call to action for the City and its police to continue the per-
2 petual work of constitutional policing and for the civilian oversight bodies and com-
3 munity groups to continue oversight to ensure the Department is being held account-
4 able.
5

6 I certify that this memorandum contains 3,366 words, in compliance with
7 the Local Civil Rules.
8

9 Dated this 26th day of April, 2023.

10 Respectfully submitted,
11

12 *s/Jazmyn Clark*

13 Jazmyn Clark, WSBA 48224
14 La Rond Baker, WSBA 43610
15 Enoka Herat, WSBA 43347
16 Susannah Porter Lake, WSBA 60762
17 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF
18 WASHINGTON
19 PO Box 2728
20 Seattle, WA 98111
21 Phone: (206) 624-2184
22 jclark@aclu-wa.org
23 baker@aclu-wa.org
24 eherat@aclu-wa.org
25 slake@aclu-wa.org
26

Attorneys for Amici Curiae

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date indicated below, I caused service of the foregoing *AMICUS BRIEF OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON* via the CM/ECF system that will automatically send notice of such filing to all counsel of record.

DATED this 26th day of April, 2023 at Seattle, Washington.

By: /s/Tracie Wells
Tracie Wells, Paralegal
American Civil Liberties Union
of Washington Foundation
P.O. Box 2728
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 624-2184
twells@aclu-wa.org